Accordingly, the ex-storage point price of HSD has been revised as under:

Effective Dates	Ex-storage point price (Excluding excise duty etc.) Rs. / KL
07.11.97	7918.04
25.12.97	7996.84
01.03.98	7839.24
04.04.98	7645.47
20.05.98	7536.89

Petrol and Diesel Outlets in Remote and Rural Areas

1187. SHRI C. RAMCHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has any plan to invite entrepreneurs to open petrol and diesel outlets in remote and rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation has not embarked on any imaginative marketing strategy;

(c) the reasons for the slow extension of distribution network in rural areas; and

(d) the steps proposed to review the present system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) Yes, Sir. 252 new retail outlets have been included in the approved RO Marketing Plan 1996-97 for Indian Oil Corporation and AOD.

(b) No, Sir. IOC has been taking planned initiative and revising and improving its marketing strategy from time to time.

(c) and (d) In line with the existing policy, retail outlets are being developed in remote and rural areas after carrying out feasibility study. Locations meeting volume / distance norms are included in the marketing plan and are" developed. This is an ongoing and continuous process. Accordingly, based on the above criteria, Indian Oil Corporation and its Assam Oil Division (AOD), as on 1.10.1998, are having 6801 retail outlet, dealerships all over the country including the rural areas.

LPG Agencies in Chittoor and Cuddapah of Andhra pradesh

1188. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new LPG agencies and outlets are planned in 1998-99 during the refraining period in Chittoor and Cuddapah districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the locations selected;

(c) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of LPG in these districts; and

(d) the steps proposed to relieve this shortage of LPG connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL. GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) To meet the increased demand of LPG of Chittoor and Cuddapah districts in Andhra Pradesh, 12 new distributorship in Chittoor district and 21 new LPG distributorships in Cuddapah district have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98. Selection process has been set in motion with the constitution of three Dealer Selection Boards for Andhra Pradesh. With the commissioning of the LPG distributorships, the demand of the area will be met adequately.

Small and Medium Oil Fields

1189. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of-PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and medium oil fields discovered and offered for de-